#2

To Dr. James Sykes

Dr. Sir

Being aware of the many advantages, I have derived from your exemplary precepts in medicine. It gives me great satisfaction, in thus, candidly acknowledging the high esteem, I entertain, of your superior abilities, and, at the same time, in subscribing myself your most obedient, and affectionate pupil,

Parran Taylor

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On Dropsy

By dropsy, I mean, any preternatural collection of serous fluid, into any one or all of the cavities of the body, originating in general, or local debility, induced by previous morbid excitement; and, is, almost always, at the commencement, accompanied with preternatural action, in the arterial system. the evidence of which, is too well known, for me, to take up any time, in adducing the proofs, in favour of its existence.—

Dropsy is a disease, to which, all ages of human beings are subject. the indolent more so than those, who lead an active life. women are more so than men. it occurs most frequently in low marshy countries, where the intermittent fever mostly prevails, than in mountainous tracts of country. it is most apt to occur, in the spring, after a changeable winter, or in the autumn, succeeding to the diseases of that time. both women and men, are alike subject to

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this disease; when, to a sedentary life, is added intemperance in the use of ardent spirit.

The morbid action in the blood vessels, differs, in most instances, from that in common fevers, in being accompanied, with less febrile heat. and with little or no pain in the head, ~~and~~ limbs. a circumstance, that I would attribute, to the arterial, or some one of the systems, being in a greater state, of debility, in the center of the body, that those more distant, they thus, have, a greater disposition, to retain the morbid impression.—

When a transient stimulus is applied to the system, if it be not too powerfull, the effect will be, to destroy the excitability of the system for the time, at least, to the action of a weaker stimuli. but, when it is withdrawn, the powers of the system, appear to accumulate in such a manner, as, to keep close at the heels of its retreat.— not so, when the force of impression is great, and long continued. the effect is to destroy

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the capacity of the parts, in such a manner, as to become quite incapable, of making its former resistance, although, the force be withdrawn. in the first instance, it is like the tree, which bends to the impression of the wind, but rises again when the force is withdrawn, it does not lose its elasticity from so slight a cause. but in the latter instance, it is like a tree, which is shattered by the storm, it falls to rise no more, unless, by the aid of man, or some other cause, equally independant of nature.

The system in Dropsy, ~~in Anasarca~~ is often reduced to this latter state, from the force of impression. it is this state, which characterises the Hydropic diathesis, and which is more immediately, the subject of this essay. and which, I shall term, in distinction from the acute state, the chronic state, of Dropsy. and in those cases, where the system retains its power of reacting, will constitute the acute state of this Disease

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debility predisposes to dropsical effusion as it does to all other diseases. Dr Rush says, "that the healthy state of one system, depends on the healthy state of another. I think it equally true, that the diseased state of one, should depend on the diseased state of another, or, that morbidly depressed state of one system, should depend, on the morbidly excited state of others,

I grant with Dr Cullen, that a diminished absorption of serous fluid, thrown into the interstices of the body, by a natural exhalation, might produce a dropsical swelling. It does not seem likely that the absorbents should be so deranged, when the exhalants, are in a healthy state, they being so intimately connected, by sympathy of continuity, that the same cause, that produced a debility in one, would likewise produce the debility of the other, it is very obvious to me, that a diminished absorption should be, co ex-

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[illegible] in the [illegible], [illegible] while the same circumstance, [illegible], in the [illegible]. [illegible] in, as much the [illegible] of [illegible], in the [illegible] of [illegible]. [illegible] the [illegible] which [illegible], [illegible]. These are –

1st Obstruction of the Catamenia or, [illegible] or [illegible]. [illegible] the [illegible]. Observe that, this discharge [illegible] a [illegible]; the [illegible], [illegible] known. [illegible] much [illegible] of the [illegible]. The object of this discharge ought to be, to [illegible]

from the [illegible] a lesion of tissue, that has become a [illegible] in the system. It no doubt [illegible] more [illegible] than any other portion of the [illegible] the system, [illegible] of [illegible] in the [illegible] of [illegible] from [illegible] in the [illegible] of cells, the [illegible] be retained in the system; there is still a tendency in the system, to throw it off, [illegible] place in either [illegible] the system, [illegible] from the [illegible] become more [illegible], so that the system will accommodate itself [illegible] in the [illegible] in the form of [illegible] the [illegible] become the [illegible] seat of the [illegible]; [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] the whole system [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] sufficiently of itself [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] quantity of red blood: [illegible] the [illegible] portion [illegible]

II. [illegible] very common with the [illegible] that [illegible] intermittent [illegible] being in the disease, and most commonly, in [illegible], in general, from causes inducing debility or congestion, obstructions &c. [illegible] intermittent, being confined [illegible] or particular part of the body, and [illegible] such a degree, as to [illegible] the part, [illegible] point of [illegible]: thereby inducing [illegible] state of debility [illegible] [illegible]. Hence the frequent occurrence of a collection of water in the abdomen

III Obsel

accessary to intermitting fevers. but, in these [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] debility; [illegible] [illegible] debility [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] which is in almost every instance attended with a general effusion of water in the cellular texture - - - - - - -

III Obstinate and protracted catarrh, which follows the application of those causes [illegible] that of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is no less certain in producing dropsy in females than males, as much as in them it is more likely to occasion an obstruction of the catamenia, and probably at the same time it induces a spasm on the surface of the body, thus preventing the discharge by the insensible perspiration, which is partly evinced from the dryness of the skin that is observed in dropsies from such a cause—

IV

[illegible]

IV [illegible] fixed by all [illegible] to be frequently the cause of [illegible]; the [illegible]

V

VI

[illegible]

V Incidental [illegible], consequently in the order of [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] a powerful stimulus, prostrate the natural powers [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that all attempts to the cure are perfectly useless. Decay and [illegible] succeeds to the disease in some year after the symptoms [illegible] [illegible]

VI Interruption to the return of the venous blood, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] above

not safe [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

dispatches

[illegible]

Dr. the Chel

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

probably

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] by the

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

ly into the veins. It is requisite that all the systems, should be equally excited, we have begun to health to restore. [illegible] [illegible] and spring, a considerable [illegible] in the veins, the absorbents may prove deficient in their operation, a want of energy in the veins, to [illegible] all these evils, [illegible] for [illegible] make room to receive the fluid they are [illegible]; hence it must not be [illegible] that the absorbents only are [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

VII [illegible] difficult labours, not unfrequently, are succeeded by [illegible] [illegible]; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] action [illegible] of the [illegible]; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] The effusion from this cause, occurs, without being preceded by any except of relax in the arterial system. The muscular fibre, become shallow, or so weak [illegible]

or not to be capable of vivifying; hence the reason of [illegible] posture during the copulation or accumulation of water, owing into [illegible] effusion consequently the parts are prevented and mutilated or not to make [illegible] gravity of the fluids.

VIII [illegible] have been considered as true [illegible] dropsy but I should doubt this, unless when they are so large as to compress some neighbouring parts therefore impeding the free circulation of the blood. It has long been known that they are also found in the [illegible] of hydrocephalus, but I should rather [illegible] them as due to the same cause that [illegible] dropsy than admit that they are the [illegible] dropsy [illegible]

As for the manner in which large [illegible] tion produce dropsy [illegible] at this

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] argyle [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] that [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] according as the [illegible]
[illegible]
It is not unusual, that [illegible] in the
[illegible] circumstance, in the production of
that disease, which [illegible]
by [illegible] as in other systems by the
gradual [illegible] of an [illegible] cause, such
as those [illegible] in the [illegible]
[illegible] that [illegible] in the
west indies, without being preceded by [illegible]
[illegible]

That [illegible] of the [illegible]
part of the body, [illegible] the [illegible]
of the [illegible], has been considered by some [illegible]
[illegible], as a distinct [illegible]
[illegible] Leucophlegmatia; [illegible]
[illegible] distinction
[illegible] given to it, [illegible] a grade of this

condition of the body which [illegible] propensities [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Morbe

of morbid stimuli in the system, to these succeed,
an [illegible] of the [illegible] vessels, a fulness [illegible],
and [illegible] in the [illegible].

The symptoms [illegible] the [illegible],
difficulty of breathing, occasioned by the pressure
of the water on the [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] thirst [illegible] an abstraction of fluid
from the [illegible] [illegible] is caused by
the introduction of the lymph, which [illegible]
[illegible] in the body, [illegible] and [illegible],
and occasions a kind of continued fever [illegible] to
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but, [illegible]
the [illegible], we shall say, that it
is the effect and is always an evidence of [illegible]
[illegible] part of the body, 3 [illegible]
[illegible], [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible],
into the cavities of the system. — — —

The [illegible] of the [illegible] discharged, is various in dif

fe ent .

ant.

The

[illegible]

[illegible] the sound a fluctuation, [illegible] struck with the hand; the existence of tumours, [illegible] discovered by the [illegible] A sufferer [illegible] in the [illegible] may be mistaken for [illegible] dropsy but [illegible] that [illegible] been mistaken for each other [illegible] the [illegible] that [illegible] be taken into consideration, [illegible] which [illegible] a long [illegible] more [illegible] in Drop[illegible] [illegible] probability [illegible].

Among the species of [illegible], of Dropsy, as well as [illegible] to mention the [illegible] of the [illegible]. — [illegible] such as [illegible] state of Dropsy. By [illegible] to convey [illegible] by the [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible]

[illegible] that was [illegible], by the [illegible]

[illegible] medicine, as nugatory and unavailing, and [illegible]

[illegible] to embrace the progress of [illegible]

[illegible] in recommending this remedy

[illegible] I do not feel myself under any ne-

cessity of apologizing, for [illegible] ably

defended by a practitioner of great eminence, [illegible]

[illegible] more unequivocal proofs of [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible] although [illegible] have been [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ridicule. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible], [illegible] the public [illegible]

[illegible] a reputation. [illegible]

[illegible] the system [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

sensible to the influence of the internal heat, cause
[illegible] from the superior absorption of that place
they perform the office for the extinction of fire and
[illegible] They agitate in day and thereby when the stimulus
[illegible] of the other are exciting to activity
[illegible] and thereby attract [illegible]
[illegible] Dr Gardner [illegible] that
[illegible] provided the sensibility be great, in the
[illegible] first place, are better to be called on, and
of [illegible] [illegible] spontaneously,"
Dr Cullen says it [illegible] they should be of a diverse environment,
and [illegible]
M. [illegible] then adopting demonstrating the action of the
[illegible] system, and thereby promote the [illegible] and
exchange of [illegible]: He [illegible] [illegible] the
[illegible] [illegible] recommendation [illegible] he says "that each
[illegible] [illegible] operation [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Dr Barton [illegible]

[illegible] Jalap, [illegible] Jalap [illegible]

[illegible] by [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] qualities. [illegible] force [illegible]

[illegible] attention [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible]

solution are purgative to their nature, to people

of suitable bowels, [illegible]

every morning. — The modus operandi of the bowels I have mentioned, except [illegible] [illegible] exhaustion available to the [illegible] and bowels, [illegible] they contain, whereby the [illegible] becomes [illegible] excited into activity. [illegible] make [illegible] of two cases that [illegible] taking a spoonfull of sweetened [illegible]

IV Sea Bathing, the [illegible] for a good remedy [illegible] especially, [illegible] had to [illegible] to the [illegible] the action of the [illegible] [illegible] cannot [illegible] that might be in the system, [illegible] excitement which the bathers [illegible]

V Low diet, the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] means

VI

VII

VIII

the [illegible] [illegible]

VI [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the mouth of the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible], are

[illegible] [illegible] portion of [illegible] [illegible],

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the diameter

[illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] with [illegible]

[illegible] whenever there [illegible] [illegible] of

[illegible] [illegible] likely to [illegible] [illegible], when [illegible]

the [illegible], [illegible] below, [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] part of the

system, and [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]

the [illegible] from [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]. Pure water should [illegible],

and [illegible] with [illegible]

[illegible] considerable. The [illegible]

[illegible], to that of the [illegible], [illegible] as much,

[illegible] of [illegible],

the [illegible] to be an [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~

[illegible]

it enables the system to react, whereby the disease is
removed from a dormant state into the vigor of healthy
nature once about, [illegible] with [illegible] is
received [illegible] of drink, to wash away,
if I may use the expression, morbid excitement, but
to return, [illegible] to [illegible] advanced principles
[illegible] and notes. Dr Pitcairn was fond of the
alkali, which he gave in doses of about a [illegible]
[illegible] agreeably to Dr Ferriar's experiments in
the [illegible] Dispensatory, I find that of 23 patients, 5 dram
[illegible] of tartar, whereas, out of 23 cases, only
11 were cured by digitalis, Dr Ferriar's quotation
[illegible] from two to twelve [illegible] of the
fever, that he was [illegible] of the tartar as well
[illegible] was the flow of urine. Cream of tartar
[illegible], also claims our attention as refrigerant,
and from her debilitated state of the stomach, [illegible]
[illegible] by directing medicine excitement.

[illegible] says, he saw 2 cases of cholera out one case
was by [illegible] mode of giving it, to dip the [illegible]
[illegible] a heat of water, to be given in the form of a
warm [illegible] bath [illegible] that it should
be given in [illegible] after, and should always be
[illegible] and it should prove unfavorable if the bowels
have been [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] symptoms were not [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] from some of them
[illegible] the [illegible] of cholera and its precursor
symptoms, and precursor stage. but it is not [illegible]
[illegible] effects [illegible] in his
[illegible]. They should [illegible] and whole week
[illegible] unfavorable [illegible] prevent a [illegible] or two of
them, [illegible] they are omitting the grand

Dried,

Squelch

IX

Played, and in all probability, they are instrumental [illegible]

[illegible] of their patient to [illegible]

necessity, without [illegible] [illegible] and cold water [illegible]

[illegible] and at the same [illegible]

from [illegible] would

claim as much respect as a chemist, or [illegible],

Equally [illegible] much [illegible] Hope, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] By [illegible]

IX [illegible] the Black [illegible]

not [illegible]

[illegible] be not [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

X [illegible] a deaf-mute who [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

signs by which we are to know when we shall have
[illegible] enough with the effects of remedies, that we are
[illegible] by the evacuation of the water,
or the operation of them, or an increase of appetite.
It appears to be a nice question to determine.

The necessity of the water, for the remedies that
have been mentioned, so well shewn, ought to be
held in view as the [illegible] expectation in every case
of the exciting cause, and nature in most
stages with the help of [illegible] to evacuate
the water, since the efficacy of purgative remedies
by being prescribed, until the water is almost
completely evacuated, tho' this [illegible] removed,
and by the use of astringents, the first main cause
is removed, which is debility either local or general.

We will now say, that the exciting cause
is removed, we must [illegible] to the [illegible],
and from these effects, we may judge whether [illegible]

are then [illegible] in a [illegible] [illegible] of

Vegetable, aromatic & astringent substances, or

bitters in substance, or infusions of them. Spirit,

wine, &c. If [illegible] feel great depressions

and weak at the [illegible]

II Certain vegetables such as [illegible] of the horse

or ass [illegible], [illegible] also are good.

Fresh meat should be given as soon as possible

after killing or at least [illegible] by cutting [illegible]

[illegible] or bread and butter.

IV The medicine Tonics, have in some [illegible] of [illegible]

of [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible],

the [illegible] in [illegible] to be [illegible] [illegible],

and are best [illegible] to the state of the system, that

much as the quantity of their [illegible] is [illegible],

and thereby [illegible] are [illegible] to every [illegible] of the

[illegible] which those that not [illegible], would have

[illegible] as the sympathy of the system [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the body, in [illegible]
[illegible], and such preparations offered [illegible] the most [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] from the extreme [illegible], [illegible]
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] obstructed the capillary [illegible] on [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
capable of [illegible] themselves, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] establishing equable [illegible] [illegible]
the system. It appears, that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] equal degree to small capillary [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a larger [illegible] [illegible] small
capillary, and can not pass through them so readily, hence
the operation of [illegible] on the [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible], [illegible] limits [illegible] [illegible] applicable, when the [illegible] [illegible] health, the efficacy of this remedy, has long been known to physicians, by experience [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] have been [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] depends on a qu [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but no complete [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on the subject, [illegible] able to explain, what the [illegible] contributes [illegible] result [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] that the blood [illegible] [illegible] through the venous [illegible] as when [illegible] blood is exposed to the open air, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] at [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] tends to promote perspiration, and thereby to prevent the accumulation of [illegible] blood in the [illegible]. The [illegible] which the exercise of the muscles has in promoting the motion of the venous blood, [illegible] in [illegible] &c, to [illegible], that every exercise, to whatever degree

patent
income
gation
[illegible]
in the
total
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
action be
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
at the
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] will always be the most useful. Exercise promotes respiration, and thereby the oxygenation of the blood, and by the increased vigour it gives to the circulation excites the action of the absorbents in the circulation of the blood, which distributes that oxygen to every part of the body. In some people, and even in death, [illegible] of suffocation will be found a great remedy, for it has relieved; it is the most [illegible] of [illegible] applying the [illegible] of steam, and the [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] and air action both vital and valvular powers [illegible] wasting diseases, in which there is a [illegible] the blood impoverished, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] at the same time by [illegible], and proper [illegible] promote the circulation, and consequently the secretion, the vital [illegible] of the absorbents.

VII. Fa

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IX. Bread

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X. The e

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power, e

XI. A ve

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XI. Tree

roots a

for a fre

XII. Opens

VIII Revulsion. [illegible] doubt. [illegible] in the [illegible] Dr Cullen says, that it should be used in the morning, and that it ought to be made from below upward only, with [illegible] and dry flannels, that of Jaborandi is, may serve as a substitute for [illegible] as it accelerates the motion of the blood.

IX Bandages by [illegible] apart most [illegible] and promote their [illegible].

X The cold bath does not promise to be of much service in the stage of Rigor, unless it is accompanied with fomes, it may serve to awaken the sympathy of the system.

XI It seems best [illegible] in the internal reference, when the disease is seated in the lower extremities.

XII Venesection in the legs and feet. Dr Hunt describing should be made with a [illegible]. Dr Cullen thinks [illegible]

XIII Opium has been recommended, but I do not believe [illegible] much serious mischief is to attify nervous symptoms,

[illegible] return [illegible] [illegible], the remove [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] as direct stimulants, and with less injury than opium; [illegible] the same, [illegible] [illegible] should forbid the use of ardent spirit, as they [illegible] the [illegible] of the system. And lastly

Suppose, the [illegible] to be [illegible] the water [illegible] remedied, the means especially [illegible] stages, [illegible] be accomplished, by removing the stimulus [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] suitable to the return of [illegible]

It appears, that any thing very nourishing should be avoided in the [illegible], at least while the [illegible] [illegible] reason to believe, that nature [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], the object is not [illegible] [illegible] state, [illegible] that would be [illegible], [illegible] to give nourishment [illegible] stimuli by degrees, but in the state of [illegible], the object is to restore tone and elasticity to the animal fibres, where

by, et bico
analogy.

by it becomes capable of receiving nourishment with advantage. It is a thing admirable that all possessing [illegible]

[illegible] energy

[illegible] taking place at

[illegible] oxygen, [illegible] aqueous vapor

with [illegible] [illegible] hydrogen [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] oxygen [illegible] they

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] oxygen [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

during the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] carbon [illegible] hydrogen, which [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Thus, th
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this, the Stomach is constantly providing the inflammable principle, whilst the lungs are incessantly contributing what is wanting to feed the vital flame. — —

I thus conclude the history and treatment of dropsy, but have to lament, that all the remedies we are in possession of, often prove inadequate to the cure of this disease. shall we attribute our want of success to the scarcity or want of a remedy, here I believe with the Illustrious Sydenham, that our want of success, is more to be attributed to a want of knowledge in the administration, than to a want of a suitable remedy or one that we have not discovered; but there yet remains one remedy to be mentioned as a preventive and that is temperance and proper exercise combined. — — —

Knowing that haste is productive of error, it is not without embarrassment I submit this essay to your considerations, when taking into view the short time I have had in composing it, yet trusting that you will —

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pardon those errors, which from a more mature deliberation, I should be able to correct myself. But to stop here, without acknowledging the ardour you have all evinced to impart useful knowledge to me in common with the class, would be the greatest ingratitude — your familiarity, correctness, patience, and zeal, in conducting the lectures, together with abilities, have all combined, in rendering the science we study, of greater value. —

I am Gentlemen

your most obedient

and very humble servant

Parran Taylor

of Dover Delaware

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